

Gaps in Africa and Americas Cited

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Vast Expansion of USIA Activities Abroad Urged in Report to President

By Murrey Marder
Staff Reporter

A bold surge forward in the size and concept of the task required to project the United States image to a world in ferment was recommended yesterday by a White House study group.

"Infinite possibilities for constructive change and equally great potentialities of danger" loom ahead in this decade, said President Eisenhower's Committee on Information Activities Abroad.

Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Mansfield D. Sprague headed the 9-man committee of government policymakers and outsiders. They spent nine months studying the operation of all United States overseas information

This is likely to give the report more stature than "just another study" by an Administration in eclipse and could help stimulate bipartisan action on Capitol Hill.

In language partially cushioned in kindness to the current Administration, the report nevertheless finds, in effect, that the United States must seize itself by the scruff of the neck and intensify its efforts.

Among its findings:

• "The scale of the total U. S. information effort will have to be progressively expanded for some time to come. There is urgent need for substantial increases in the critical areas of Africa and Latin America."

• "In Africa . . . we lack basic knowledge of the processes by which information and ideas are communicated . . . we lack sufficient information specialists . . . we lack contacts."

• "In Latin America the immediate outlook is more disturbing than promising . . . greater efforts are needed."

• "Communist China presents a baffling and threatening problem for official information activity."

• "We are now in a period when the mission and style of diplomacy is changing . . . The prospect is for a period of protracted non-military conflict between the Free World and the Communist system" which "will reach into every portion of the globe." The outcome will depend considerably on the degree to which "we are able to influence the attitudes of people."

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• Expansion of exchange of persons programs, was urged, with training "specially tailored" to students or leaders brought here for study, plus a "nation-wide system for hospitality to foreign visitors."

• Possible creation of "a new quasi-independent foundation for international educational development to give voice and leadership to the broad program." Sprague said, this envisions something like the National Science Foundation in which Government representatives, educators and scientists could join.

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stitutes and training centers, as symbols of American help.

• The possible development of "large mobile training centers to provide basic skills in health, agriculture and mechanical trades to thousands of trainees at a time." Another suggestion was "opportunity scholarships" for education, to be awarded in open competition to young people of various countries.

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President Eisenhower, in an exchange of letters with Committee Chairman Sprague, said he was "in full and instant accord" with "much of the report" and "a great many of its conclusions and recommendations." He said he has asked the Departments concerned to begin studying this "document of exceptional value."

The President said he shared the Committee's view about information needs in Africa and Latin America, and called the Government training ideas "worthy of serious attention."

Programs of educational development, he said, could prove to be the most meaningful of all, but he cautioned—as did two of the Committee members in expressing reservations—that these should be "well defined in scope and timing."

No price tag of any kind was put on the barrage of ideas in the report.

The 19-page document made public is only a portion—Sprague said about 40 per cent—of the full study made

for the White House. The remainder will stay classified for reasons of security and sensitivities of Allied countries, said Sprague, but the "guts of the report," he added is public.

Sprague, in contrast to news reports during the recent presidential campaign—when this document was not yet in finished form—said, "We did not consider it part of our job to determine the status of U. S. prestige in any part of the world."

The group, however, did make use, he said, of a United States Information Agency study of prestige after the Soviet launching of Sputnik I.

The current report itself found:

"Without question the

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